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FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2002      LB 1003

the Department of Agriculture as to how they implement similar right-of-entry statutes under disease eradication programs, and I understand that they have...if they believe that a landowner is likely to be confrontational, if they believe that, then they inform the county attorney ahead of time and also request the escort of the county sheriff. Under current law, there's no specific authority for entering private property for wildlife disease management purposes, so I am not certain the commission would have the ability to obtain a warrant to enter private property for these purposes without enacting this provision. The commission's authority to enter private property, it is my understanding, is currently limited to investigating possible game law violations and is limited to conservation officers. This amendment is necessary to enable the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...biologists employed by the commission who are not necessarily game wardens, to access property for a wildlife management purpose rather than a game law violation purpose. I think we are asking for trouble if we send some biologist from Lincoln with no law enforcement authority out to private property owned by people who are somewhat distrustful of the whole program to begin with. With the adoption of the Coordsen amendment, I think I can support this issue; otherwise, I can't. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Senator Coordsen, you're recognized to close on your amendment to the Schrock amendment to LB 1003.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'll try to be very quickly. Today, as I understand the situation, personnel of Game and Parks can get a search warrant and enter private property without permission. That's how it is today. The only reason that I can see that this language is part of the amendment is to allow personnel employed by Game and Parks to enter private property without permission. I don't know any other purpose for that. I have never been contacted by any wildlife person, owner of a domesticated cervine herd, or anything. When I first looked at this bill some time ago, I was